

# POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SPRING 2012

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OFFICE: KETCHUM 124  
HOURS: TR 1-2 & BY APPT

Welcome to *Political Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa* (PSCI 3082). This semester we will examine the history underlying contemporary sub-Saharan politics and discuss some of the issues that concern Africans and their leaders today. You do not need extensive prior knowledge of African affairs to succeed in this course, but you will need a healthy dose of curiosity and the willingness to engage in course readings and discussions.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a diverse and dynamic region, and we can only begin to scratch the surface of the puzzles we'll explore this term. We will balance more general discussions of trends in African politics with focused examinations of some especially interesting cases. The special case studies will include Rwanda, South Africa, Ethiopia, Asante, Mali, and the Congo Free State.

## COURSE READINGS

Most of the readings for this course will be available to you for free via CULearn, but I will ask you to purchase three books for this course:

- *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families* (1997)  
by PHILIP GOUREVITCH
- *State and Power in Africa* (2000)  
by JEFFREY HERBST
- *The Fate of Africa: A History of the Continent Since Independence* (2011, 2nd edition)  
by MARTIN MEREDITH

Additionally, one optional book is available for purchase:

- *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999* (2001)  
by NICOLAS VAN DE WALLE

These books are available at the bookstore. You can also find them from the usual online vendors or in kindle format. Your total for new editions of the three required books should be \$40-\$50.

## ASSESSMENT

Assignments will factor into your overall grade according to the percentages offered below, and your grades will be recorded on CULearn as they become available. Overall grades will be neither curved nor rounded unless the class average drops below 80%. Should this be the case, I will curve grades to raise the class average to an 80%.

MAP QUIZ (10%)

[THU 9 FEB]

We'll begin the third week with a quiz on the locations, capitals, and colonial histories of sub-Saharan states. You will find a study guide with the relevant information for this quiz on CULearn.

MIDTERM EXAM (30%)

[THU 17 MAR]

Before spring break, we will have our only exam. This exam will consist of short answer and essay questions and it will cover material from weeks 1-10. You will need a blue book.

SHORT ESSAY (30%)

[FINALS]

During finals week you will turn in a 5-7 page essay based on material covered in the five weeks after spring break (11-15). I will provide two essay questions from which you will choose one to address current issues facing the continent of Africa.

GROUP DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITIES (20%)

Sometime during the first few weeks of the semester, you will be divided into groups of four and choose a country in Sub-Saharan Africa to follow. Periodically, the second half of class will be devoted to group activities in which you will identify how your country has dealt with the topic of the week. You will identify how prevalent the topic was for your country, how the country responded to the issue, the role of the international community and what recommendations you would make for solving the issue. Each group member will receive the same grade for this assignment unless a member is consistently absent or fails to contribute.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (10%)

This is an upper-level seminar and you are expected to participate regularly. The course will be better if you share your thoughts often. I look forward to your thoughtful contributions that will come from periodic questions I pose during class and during occasional group discussions.

EXTRA CREDIT

At the beginning of the semester, you have the opportunity to earn some extra credit. The continent of Africa will be participating in the African Cup of Nations, hosted by Gabon and

Equatorial Guinea, during our first month of class. To participate along with the continent, students are encouraged to fill out a bracket found on CULearn. All who fill out a bracket will receive extra credit points.

## READING SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1: AFRICA BEFORE COLONIZATION

#### ASANTE EMPIRE

Session 1: Introduction and Geography

Tue 17 Jan

Session 2: Pre-Colonial Africa

Thu 19 Jan

- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *State and Power in Africa* Princeton University Press. pp. 33-57

### WEEK 2: THE COLONIAL PERIOD

#### CONGO FREE STATE

Session 3: The Arrival of the Europeans: Colonization

Tue 24 Jan

- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *State and Power in Africa* Princeton University Press. pp. 58-97.

Session 4: Nationalism

Thu 26 Jan

- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "L'Afrique Noire" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 58-74.
- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "Winds of Change" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 75-92.

### WEEK 3: INDEPENDENCE AND STATE BUILDING

#### TANZANIA

Session 5: Independence

Tue 31 Jan

- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "The Birth of Nations" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 141-161.
- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "The First Dance of Freedom" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 162-178.

Session 6: State Building

Thu 2 Feb

- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *State and Power in Africa* Princeton University Press. pp. 97-136.
- Nyerere, Julius. 1966. "The Dilemma of the Pan-Africanist." Available Online. [CULearn]

### WEEK 4: THE COLD WAR AND MAP QUIZ

#### ANGOLA

Session 7: The Cold War

Tue 7 Feb

- Marcum, John A. 1976. "Lessons of Angola." *Foreign Affairs* 54(3): 408-425. [CULearn]
- Stockwell, John. 1984. *In Search of Enemies: A CIA Story*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. pp. 9-15 and 40-56. [CULearn]

Session 8: Map Quiz

Thu 9 Feb

- No Readings: Be Prepared for Map Quiz!

**WEEK 5: AFRICAN DICTATORSHIP**

**ETHIOPIA**

Session 7: Neopatrimonial Regimes and the Lost Decade

Tue 14 Feb

- van de Walle, Nicolas. 2001. "Decision Making in Postcolonial Africa" In: *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999*. Cambridge University Press. [CULearn]

Session 8: The Dictatorship of Haile Selassie

Thu 16 Feb

- Kapuscinski, Ryszard. 1989. *The Emperor*. New York: Vintage. pp. 4-16 and 28-56. [CULearn]
- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "Death of an Emperor" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 206-217.

**WEEK 6: ETHNIC POLITICS AND DIVERSITY**

**RWANDA**

Session 11: Diversity and Conflict

Tue 21 Feb

- Gourevitch, Philip. 1997. *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*. New York: Picador. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 15-100).

Session 12: Ethnic Conflict in Rwanda

Thu 23 Feb

- Gourevitch, Philip. 1997. *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*. New York: Picador. Chapters 8-10 (pp. 101-144).

**WEEK 7: STATE FAILURE AND WAR**

**LIBERIA**

Session 13: Civil War and Instability

Tue 28 Feb

- Gourevitch, Philip. 1997. *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*. New York: Picador. Chapters Chapter 11 (pp. 147-171).
- Elbadawi, Ibrahim and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "Why Are There So Many Civil Wars in Africa?: Understanding and Preventing Violent Conflict." *Journal of African Economies* 9(3): 244-269. [CULearn]

Session 14: The Civil Wars of the 1990s

Thu 1 Mar

- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "Blood Diamonds" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 545-573.

**WEEK 8: THE "THIRD WAVE" OF DEMOCRACY**

**BENIN**

Session 15: Democratization in Africa

Tue 6 Mar

- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "The Struggle for Democracy" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 378-411.

- Van de Walle, Nicolas. 2002. "Africa's Range of Regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 66-80. [CULearn]

Session 16: Democratization in Benin

Thu 8 Mar

- Gisselquist, Rachel. 2008. "Democratic Transition and Democratic Survival in Benin." *Democratization* 15(4), 789-814. [CULearn]

**WEEK 9: AFRICAN DEMOCRACIES**

**KENYA & BOTSWANA**

Session 17: Failure in Kenya?

Tue 13 Mar

- Dowden, Richard. 2010. "Meat and Money: Eating in Kenya" In: *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles* New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 415-438. [CULearn].

Session 18: Success in Botswana?

Thu 15 Mar

- Good, Kenneth. 1992. "Interpreting the Exceptionality of Botswana." *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 30(1): 69-95. [CULearn]

**WEEK 10: BEFORE AND AFTER APARTHEID**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Session 19: South Africa Before and After Apartheid

Tue 20 Mar

- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "A Time of Triumph" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 412-441.
- Meredith, Martin. 2011. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 653-685.

Session 20: Midterm Exam

Thu 22 Mar

- No Readings. Please bring a blue book to class.

**WEEK 11: NATURAL RESOURCES AND PETRO-STATES**

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Session 21: Natural Resource Wealth

Tue 3 Apr

- Ross, Michael L. 2008. "Blood Barrels." *Foreign Affairs*. [CULearn]
- Shaxson, Nicholas. 2008. "There Will Be Blood." *Foreign Affairs*. [CULearn]

Session 22: Micro-Petro States

Thu 5 Apr

- Ghazvinian, John. 2007. "Instant Emirates." In: *Untapped: The Scramble for Africa's Oil*. Orlando: Harcourt. pp. 166-206. [CULearn]

**WEEK 12: THE AIDS PANDEMIC**

**UGANDA**

Session 23: AIDS and the African Response

Tue 10 Apr

- From Helen Epstein, *New York Review of Books*
  - "The Hidden Cause of AIDS." [CULearn]
  - "Can AIDS Be Stopped?" [CULearn]

– “God and the Fight Against AIDS.” [CULearn]

Session 24: AIDS in Uganda

Thu 12 Apr

- Dowden, Richard. 2010. “The Positive Positive Women: AIDS in Africa” In: *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles* New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 321-352. [CULearn]

**WEEK 13: THE POLITICS AND EFFECTS OF FOREIGN AID**

**MALI**

Session 25: Foreign Aid and Development

Tue 17 Apr

- Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. “A Brief History of Aid.” In: *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux Books. pp. 10-28. [CULearn]
- Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. “Aid is Not Working.” In: *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux pp. 29-47. [CULearn]

Session 26: The Effects of Aid in Mali

Thu 19 Apr

- Brigaldino, Glenn. “Managing European Aid Resources in Mali.” In: Carlsson, Jerker, Gloria Somolekae, and Nicolas Van de Walle (Eds.). 1997. *Foreign Aid in Africa: Learning from Country Experiences*. Uppsala, Sweden: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet. pp.128-146. [CULearn]

**WEEK 14: CHINESE AID IN AFRICA**

**SIERRA LEONE**

Session 27: China in Africa

Tue 24 Apr

- Brautigam, Deborah. 2010. “Rogue Donor?: Myths and Realities” In: *The Dragon’s Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. pp. 273-306. [CULearn]

Session 28: Chinese Food Aid and Development

Thu 26 Apr

- Brautigam, Deborah. 2010. “Exporting Green Revolution: From Aid to Agribusiness.” In: *The Dragon’s Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. pp. 232-252. [CULearn]

**WEEK 15: PAN-AFRICAN REGIONALISM AND THE FUTURE**

**SOMALIA**

Session 29: African Regionalism

Tue 1 May

- Murithi, Timothy. 2005. “Peace and Development Challenges for the African Union.” In: *The African Union: Pan-Africanism, Peacebuilding, and Development*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Limited. pp. 39-79. [CULearn]

Session 30: Successes and Failures

Thu 3 May

- Meredith, Martin. 2011. “Black Hawk Down” In: *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 464-484.
- Meredith, Martin. 2011. “Out of Africa” In *The Fate of Africa*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 686-704.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Syllabus:* I reserve the right to change readings on the syllabus as I see fit throughout the semester. If I do make changes to the syllabus, I will notify you of the new readings at least two weeks in advance

*Course Conduct:* Much of our class will consist of discussion and debate. Strong opinions are encouraged, but you are also expected to be professional and respectful at all times.

*Academic Honesty:* I strongly encourage you to read the university's policies on academic honesty and your rights should you be accused of cheating. These documents are available online at <http://www.colorado.edu/honorcode/>

*Special Considerations:* In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, faculty are required to make "reasonable and timely accommodations" for students with disabilities. By university policy, that obligation only extends to students who have registered with the Office of Disability Services, which makes the determination of whether, for example, students have real learning disorders. If you are a student with a disability, please notify me in writing within the first two weeks of semester what accommodations are needed. Please provide me documentation from Disability Services (303-492-8671, Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)). If you have religious obligations that may conflict with this course, please notify me in writing within the first two weeks of semester in order to seek a reasonable and fair arrangement. The campus policy regarding religious observance is available at [www.colorado.edu/policies.fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies.fac_relig.html).